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THE ROYAL TOWN OF SUTTON COLDFIELD

BOROUGH OF SUTTON COLDFIELD

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year

1951





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Medical Officer of Health

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JAMES R. PRESTON, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., F.R.F.P.S.
Medical Officer of Health

Public Health Department
Council House
Sutton Coldfield

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Ambulance	16
Births	13
Clinics and Treatment Centres	16, 17
Deaths	10, 11
Diphtheria	19
Factories and Workshops	34, 35
Food	40, 46
Health Services	15
Hospitals	49
Housing	36
Immunisation	19, 49
Infantile Mortality	14
Infectious Diseases	49
Laboratory Facilities	15
Maternity and Child Welfare	17
Meteorology	6
Meat Inspection	44
Mosquito Control	29, 30
Milk	41
Notification of Infectious Diseases	53, 54
Physical Features	4
Poliomyelitis	51
Rodent Control	33
Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough	19
Sanitary Inspection	24, 25
School Hygiene	36
Sutton Coldfield Population	5
Tuberculosis	51
Vital Statistics	8, 14
Water	19, 22, 28



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PREFACE

Public Health Department,
Council House,
Sutton Coldfield.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Royal Town of
Sutton Coldfield.*

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report on the health of the Borough for the year 1951. You will note that the form of the report has been changed completely. Statistics have to be kept, and presented in this way, are more readily understood. Before deciding on this change I took the opportunity of studying the reports of the Medical Officers of Sutton Coldfield during the last half century, and it was possible to trace the steady progress in the sanitary conditions in the Borough during its growth in that period.

In the review some interesting points were noted, for instance, we have only this year demolished Hunters Place and in the report of 1902 the fact is mentioned that the only two cases of overcrowding in the town in that year were in this property, the overcrowding being abated only after the aid of the police was obtained.

In those days (1902) vaccination was done on an intensive scale, and out of 352 births in 1902 only 8 were unvaccinated within the year. At present vaccination is optional under the National Health Service Act and an increase in the number of unvaccinated has occurred and we are not in such a happy position as in 1902—such is progress.

The advances in maternity and child welfare can be appreciated when one knows that a cause of infantile death recorded in one case in 1905 was want of breast milk—nowadays with breast milk banks and artificial feeding, such a death could easily be avoided.

At that time there were 1,944 ash-pits in the town and the Medical Officer of Health draws attention in his 1905 report to the desirability of a more modern system of refuse collection, and he refers also to the fact that “the time has arrived when all so-called ‘water’ closets should be made water closets in fact.” He states that “these waterless water closets are a constant nuisance.” We have not yet eliminated this problem of sewage disposal completely and it is hoped that in the next few years it will be possible to connect many of the existing privies and cesspools to the sewers.

The Medical Officer of Health remarks in 1907 : “I have been struck in many instances by observing on my visits what a tendency

there is for ashpits and other receptacles to become full and overflow. In some instances the household dust is deliberately spread on walks as a means of getting rid of it, instead of having it removed by the authorities."

With the shortage of labour we have our difficulties at the present time too.

He goes on to say : "Many people say removal is unnecessary and I say that such people are not acquainted with the value of modern hygiene." This is true to-day, and the rapid removal of household and shop refuse is, in my view, a matter of the greatest importance because of the breeding place offered to insects and flies which can carry and spread disease.

We now tend to forget that Diphtheria can be a dangerous and killing disease in view of the excellent results obtained by the immunisation campaign, but in 1907 seven deaths were reported ; in 1908, 30 cases, and it is only by constant care and by vigorous campaigning for immunisation of all children against Diphtheria that the scourge can be held at bay.

In 1912 the notification of Tuberculosis became compulsory and this is noted with great satisfaction by the then Borough Medical Officer of Health, who considered that it would have a marked effect in dealing with this disease ; premises would be visited and the Health Visitor could visit and advise personally. It has undoubtedly been of considerable assistance in combating the disease.

In 1916, mention is made that the report was delayed because of a new departure in which the Local Government Board did not send out the statistical table, but statistics were supplied by the Registrar-General in April. This is applicable to-day and still delays the issue of these reports to some extent.

Some of you may remember 1918 and the prevalence of influenza in that year in two waves, July and November. In Sutton Coldfield 49 deaths were registered, the majority in people in the prime of life, and in 1919 another 39 cases occurred with 23 deaths. The Medical Officer of Health remarks that Sutton Coldfield did not suffer to the same extent as many other towns in the Midlands.

As a matter of interest, in 1951 there were in Sutton Coldfield 16 deaths from influenza, but in no way could this be compared with the deaths in 1918-19, since of the 1951 deaths, 5 were in the age-group 75 years and over ; 7 in the age-group 65-75 years ; 3 in the age-group 45-65 years and 1 in the age group 5-15 years.

During the year an active programme of Health Education has been pursued and a team consisting of personnel from the nursing, sanitary and medical staff have taken part in lectures and

lecture demonstrations on a considerable scale. In some instances large stalls have been set up illustrating the work of the Public Health Department and Maternity and Child Welfare Section of the Area Health Dept. Visits have been made to schools, training colleges, various societies and organisations.

The welfare of old people has received considerable attention throughout the country in the last few years, and Sutton Coldfield has been no exception. The Old People's Welfare Committee, on which are two members of the Public Health Committee, has continued its excellent work in co-ordinating and encouraging the work for old people in the town.

Much has been done by the various societies and voluntary organisations, and the old people of Sutton Coldfield can be sure that their needs will continue to be catered and provided for in every possible way.

During the year 1951 there has been a steady improvement in the sanitary conditions in the Borough, and I can only express how much pleasure it has given me to advise and co-operate with you in the public health work of the Council.

I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to all the members of the Public Health Staff, both sanitary and clerical, for their loyal and unstinted effort.

JAMES R. PRESTON,
Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1951

Medical Officer of Health : JAMES R. PRESTON, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
F.R.F.P.S.

Senior Sanitary Inspector : *†C. E. IMPETT, M.R.San.I.

Sanitary Inspector : *†‡H. T. MITCHELL, M.R.San.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors : *G. DOWNING, M.R.San.I. (resigned 9/9/51).

*C. WILLARD, A.R.San.I. (resigned 31/10/51).

J. P. MARDEN, A.R.San.I. (commenced 3/12/51).

H. MEREDITH, A.R.San.I. (commenced 10/12/51).

Rodent Operatives : W. WILLDIG.

F. TROTT.

Chief Clerk : G. W. T. NICHOLLS.

Clerks : Miss R. E. HALL.

Miss G. E. COLLISTER (resigned 15/10/51).

Miss D. M. TIMMS.

Miss M. M. BICKERTON (commenced 3/12/51).

Public Analyst : F. G. D. CHALMERS, M.A., B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

*Meat and Food Inspectors' Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

†Smoke Inspectors' Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

‡Sanitary Science Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

SECTION A GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Borough	13,978 acres
-----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	--------------

Population—Census, 1931	...	...	...	...	29,928
Census, 1951	...	...	...	...	47,590
As estimated by Registrar-General mid-year, 1951	...	...	...	...	47,790

Total number of inhabited houses—				
31st December, 1947	...	...	...	13,795
31st December, 1948	...	...	...	14,046
31st December, 1949	...	...	...	14,257
31st December, 1950	...	...	...	14,703
31st December, 1951	...	...	...	14,929

Rateable Value at 31st December, 1951	...	...	£460,527
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	£1,860

PHYSICAL FEATURES

The Municipal Borough and Royal Town of Sutton Coldfield lies in the North-west corner of the County of Warwick. It has an area of 13,978 acres. From the Southern Boundary at Chester Road where it marches with Birmingham to the Watford Gap Northern Boundary is a distance of $5\frac{1}{4}$ miles. The main road between these two points divides the Borough into approximately two equal parts : the Eastern half is more agricultural and less

densely populated, and in the Western half lies the Park, the most important physical feature of the district with its 2,400 acres of woods and moorland set in undulating country with gorse, heather, streams and pools. The Southern areas and vicinity of the main road are the most densely populated, although with the growth of Falcon Lodge, Walmley and the development in the Hill area, the population is becoming more evenly distributed.

The district is residential and agricultural, and forms a pleasant residential area for persons working in the neighbouring city of Birmingham.

The subsoil varies somewhat but is for the most part sandy and porous with a fairly consistent level of subsoil water, conditions which make for healthy building sites.

There are no occupations in the Borough which would adversely affect the public health, and the number of factories is relatively small.

DISTRICTS OF SUTTON COLDFIELD

The town of Sutton Coldfield with its population of 47,590 is the second largest borough of Warwickshire, according to the 1951 census, and is rapidly growing and expanding in population, housing and amenities.

The town is divided into seven wards as shown below in the estimate of population of the wards at mid-year 1951.

ESTIMATE OF POPULATION OF WARDS AT MID-YEAR 1951

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Population</i>
TRINITY	1,517	4,875
HILL	2,710	8,709
BOLDMERE (East) ...	1,753	5,633
BOLDMERE (West) ...	3,161	10,159
WYLDE GREEN ...	1,811	5,820
MANEY	1,778	5,714
WALMLEY	2,141	6,880
Totals ...	14,871	47,790

METEOROLOGY

A general survey of the meteorological records for 1951 shows that the weather experienced in the Borough fell short of the standard encountered during the previous year. During 1951 there were less hours of sunshine and a heavier rainfall as compared with 1950.

Sunshine

The total hours of sunshine during 1951 amounted to 1,372.35 as against 1,418.20 hours in 1950. June was the sunniest month with 219.30 hours and the gloomiest month during the year was January with only 34.00 hours.

Rainfall

The total rainfall during the year was 33.73 inches as compared with 28.17 inches during 1950. Rainfall was heaviest in November with 6.29 inches and October was the driest month of the year with 0.79 inches.

Temperature

The highest temperature during the year occurred on the 2nd July when 81° in the shade was recorded. There were three days during the year when the lowest temperature of 18° was recorded, these were 28th January and the 11th and 12th December.

The mean temperature for 1951 was 47° as compared with 48° for 1950.

The following is a table of meteorological observations taken at the Park Lodge and Council House during the year ending 31st December 1951, by the Park Forester.

Lat.: 32 deg. 33 min. 22 sec. N. Long.: 1 deg. 47 min. 42 sec. W.
Height of Rain Gauge above Sea Level, 370.5 feet.

MONTH	RAINFALL			THERMOMETERS										SUNSHINE		
	Total depth in inches	Number of days on which rain fell	Greatest fall in 24 hours	In Shade						Highest readings in Sun		Lowest readings on grass		Monthly totals	MONTH	
				Highest readings		Lowest readings		Mean Temp. in shade	Dgrs.		Dgrs.		Date			
				Dgrs.	Date	Dgrs.	Date	Dgrs.	Date	Dgrs.	Date	Dgrs.	Date			
JANUARY	2.64	16	.66 5th	53.0 16th	18.0 28th	38.0 38.0	74.0 16th	18.0 27/28	34 00	JANUARY						
FEBRUARY	2.70	18	.43 15th	47.0 20th	27.0 20th	38.0 38.0	88.0 20th	24.0 26th	40 20	FEBRUARY						
MARCH	4.54	22	.56 13th	58.0 23rd	23.0 20th	38.0 38.0	96.0 16th	20.0 20th	79 50	MARCH						
APRIL	2.38	15	.32 1st	72.0 25th	27.0 11th	44.0 44.0	116.0 26th	23.0 11th	178 00	APRIL						
MAY	3.53	18	.74 26th	68.0 25th	31.0 12th	47.5 47.5	127.0 11th	29.0 11th	142 20	MAY						
JUNE	1.10	11	.32 22nd	74.0 6th	43.0 16th	56.5 56.5	129.0 26th	38.0 16th	219 30	JUNE						
JULY	.85	11	.14 9th	81.0 2nd	42.0 13th	61.0 61.0	132.0 11th	39.0 13th	201 10	JULY						
AUGUST	4.04	21	1.00 6th	75.0 2/3rd	40.0 16th	58.5 58.5	131.0 2nd	37.0 16th	150 30	AUGUST						
SEPTEMBER	2.54	14	.75 6th	74.0 5th	37.0 22nd	51.0 51.0	128.0 2nd	36.0 26th	114 40	SEPTEMBER						
OCTOBER	.79	8	.16 31st	64.0 30th	24.0 23rd	48.0 48.0	110.0 9th	24.0 26th	106 35	OCTOBER						
NOVEMBER	6.29	26	1.22 5th	55.0 7th	27.0 26th	47.0 47.0	90.0 7th	24.0 26th	56 30	NOVEMBER						
DECEMBER	2.33	17	.73 26th	53.0 16th	18.0 11/12	40.0 40.0	68.0 1st	18.0 11th	49 10	DECEMBER						
Totals ...	33.73	197		Mean for the year			47.0	Total	1,372	35						

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1951

						Males	Females	Total
Live Births								
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	334	299	633
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	8	7	15
Total registered	...	...	...	...	...	342	306	648
Stillbirths								
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	3	5	8
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total registered	...	...	...	...	...	3	5	8
Deaths								
Total registered	...	...	...	...	...	253	314	567
Maternal Mortality								
Deaths from puerperal causes:								
Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	—	Nil	Nil
Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Total	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Deaths from Special Causes								
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	50	60	110
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	1	Nil	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Enteritis (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Infant Mortality								
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age :								
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	2	7	9
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Total registered	...	...	...	...	...	3	7	10
Neo-Natal Deaths								
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age :								
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	2	7	9
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Total	...	...	...	...	...	3	7	10

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1951
(continued)

	Comparative Statistics (Where available)	
	Sutton Coldfield	England and Wales
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population, mid-1951	13.6	15.5
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 population	0.167	0.36
Death Rate per 1,000 population	11.9	12.5
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births		
Puerperal sepsis	Nil	0.10
Other causes	1.524	0.18
Abortion with sepsis	Nil	0.09
Abortion without sepsis	Nil	0.05
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age		
All infants per 1,000 live births	15.4	29.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	14.2	—
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	66.7	—
Death Rates per 1,000 estimated population		
Tuberculosis—pulmonary	0.104	} 0.31
non-pulmonary	0.021	
Whooping Cough	0.021	—
Cancer	2.301	—
Diphtheria	Nil	Nil
Measles	Nil	—
Influenza	0.334	0.38
Pneumonia	0.334	0.61
Enteritis (under 2 years) per 1,000 live births	Nil	1.4

CAUSES OF DEATH ASSIGNABLE TO THE BOROUGH

		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	5	—	5
2.	Tuberculosis, other	—	1	1
3.	Syphilitic disease	2	—	2
4.	Diphtheria	—	—	—
5.	Whooping cough	1	—	1
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	2	2
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	9	6	15
11.	„ „ lung, bronchus	11	1	12
12.	„ „ breast ...	—	11	11
13.	„ „ uterus ...	—	1	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	30	41	71
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	—	1
16.	Diabetes	—	5	5
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system...	31	54	85
18.	Coronary disease, angina	39	27	66
19.	Hypertension with heart disease ...	4	7	11
20.	Other heart disease	35	70	105
21.	Other circulatory disease	6	14	20
22.	Influenza	6	10	16
23.	Pneumonia	10	6	16
24.	Bronchitis	14	8	22
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	3	6	9
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	4	2	6
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	2	1	3
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	2	2	4
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	6	—	6
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	1	1
31.	Congenital malformations	—	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	24	27	51
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	6	1	7
34.	All other accidents	1	5	6
35.	Suicide	1	4	5
36.	Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—	—
	ALL CAUSES ...	253	314	567

Diseases	under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 to 75	75 and over	All ages
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	5
Tuberculosis, other ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Whooping cough ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	9
„ „ lung, bronchus ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	11
„ „ breast ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ „ uterus ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms... ..	—	—	—	1	4	5	14	8	18	41
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Diabetes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	9	19	22	54
Coronary disease, angina ...	—	—	—	—	1	14	12	11	8	27
Hypertension with heart disease ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	3	7
Other heart disease ...	—	—	—	—	1	4	13	14	47	70
Other circulatory disease ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	7	14
Influenza ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	5	4	10
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	2	1	6
Bronchitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	2	4	8
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	6
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	2	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital malformations ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	5	14	27
Motor vehicle accidents ...	—	—	—	1	2	3	—	1	—	1
All other accidents ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	5
Suicide ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	4
Totals	3	—	2	3	2	16	58	81	147	314

MORTALITY BY AGE AND SEX

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	Death Rate per 1,000 Population (estimated R.G.)
Under 1 year	...	...	3	7	10	.209
1 and under 2	...	...	—	2	2	.042
2 and under 5	...	...	2	—	2	.042
5 and under 15	...	...	3	1	4	.084
15 and under 25	...	...	2	2	4	.084
25 and under 45	...	...	16	7	23	.481
45 and under 65	...	...	58	63	121	2.532
65 and under 75	...	...	81	85	166	3.474
75 and upwards	...	...	88	147	235	4.917
Total—All Ages ...			253	314	567	11.865

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1951. Registrar-General's Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000-50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Admin. County
Births	Rates per 1,000		Home Population	
Live births	15.5	17.3	16.7	17.8
Still births	0.36	0.45	0.38	0.37
Deaths				
All Causes	12.5	13.4	12.5	13.1
Typhoid and paratyphoid ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping cough	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.31	0.37	0.31	0.38
Influenza	0.38	0.36	0.38	0.23
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Acute poliomyelitis (in- cluding polioencephalitis)	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	0.61	0.65	0.63	0.61
Notifications (corrected)				
Typhoid fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid fever	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01
Meningococcal infection ...	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03
Scarlet fever	1.11	1.20	1.20	1.10
Whooping cough	3.87	3.62	4.00	3.11
Diphtheria	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01
Erysipelas	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.15
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles	14.07	13.93	14.82	14.64
Pneumonia	0.99	1.04	0.96	0.72
Acute poliomyelitis (in- cluding polioencephalitis)				
Paralytic	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02
Non-paralytic	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02
Food poisoning	0.13	0.15	0.08	0.23
Deaths		Rates per 1,000 Live Births		
All causes under 1 year of age	29.6*	33.9	27.6	26.4
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1.4	1.6	1.0	0.7
Notifications (corrected)	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births			
Puerperal fever and pyrexia	10.66	13.77	8.08	14.90

*Per 1,000 related live births.

VITAL STATISTICS—SUTTON COLDFIELD—1861 to 1951

Year	Population	Infant Mortality†	Birth Rate†	Death Rate†
1861	*4,662			
1871	*5,938			
1881	*7,737			
1891	*8,686			
1892	8,950	131	21.22	13.40
1893	9,100	131	24.28	15.71
1894	10,000	90	20.00	11.50
1895	10,500	114	19.90	11.04
1896	10,800	123	19.53	13.50
1897	11,641	103	19.15	11.59
1898	12,619	91	17.35	11.64
1899	13,800	96	22.46	12.18
1900	14,517	93	22.18	11.57
1901	*14,264	97	23.61	11.87
1902	15,635	103	24.02	11.79
1903	16,619	101	21.90	11.97
1904	17,521	136	20.54	10.44
1905	18,491	73	19.90	9.19
1906	19,347	90	20.62	9.71
1907	20,391	65	19.71	8.97
1908	20,952	95	17.74	9.50
1909	21,325	101	17.06	9.61
1910	21,780	104	18.41	9.91
1911	*20,132	105	19.37	10.53
1912	20,600	52	16.87	8.54
1913	20,919	71	19.41	10.97
1914	21,437	53	18.24	9.98
1915	22,513	76	13.85	10.61
1916	22,513	58	16.24	10.76
1917	21,475	61	15.22	12.87
1918	20,685	68	15.74	12.95
1919	20,853	47	15.74	11.56
1920	21,684	31.2	20.6	9.3
1921	*23,028	58.9	17.07	10.02
1922	23,100	56.55	16.83	10.83
1923	23,210	79.54	15.16	9.43
1924	23,570	55.21	13.83	9.75
1925	23,800	37.46	14.57	9.49
1926	24,850	51.61	12.47	10.78
1927	25,540	67.56	14.48	11.19
1928	26,720	30.58	12.23	10.36
1929	27,450	43.47	10.89	13.29
1930	27,450	53.25	12.31	10.20
1931	*29,928	48.00	12.66	11.01
1932	30,310	38.46	12.01	10.06
1933	31,230	28.75	10.02	9.86
1934	32,070	28.25	11.04	10.25
1935	33,110	40.72	13.34	9.69
1936	33,830	34.01	13.04	10.91
1937	35,050	46.15	12.98	11.50
1938	36,350	47.62	15.02	9.46
1939	38,260	28.78	14.45	9.71
1940	40,630	34.25	14.30	11.96
1941	42,060	48.21	13.24	11.17
1942	42,300	40.79	15.65	10.50
1943	41,610	37.3	16.13	10.98
1944	42,440	28.81	19.63	11.26
1945	42,420	35.14	16.10	9.71
1946	44,460	31.75	17.00	11.25
1947	45,280	26.00	18.93	11.08
1948	46,190	25.6	16.09	9.6
1949	46,580	21.4	14.04	11.1
1950	47,440	13.8	13.8	10.9
1951	*47,590	15.4	13.6	11.9

*Census.

†Per 1,000 of population.

‡Per 1,000 births.

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

Deaths

From the records available from 1892, or the last 60 years, the death rate has fluctuated between a maximum of 15.71 per 1,000 population in 1893 and a minimum of 8.54 in 1912. Applying the Registrar-General's comparability factor of 0.94 it is found that the standardised death rate for Sutton Coldfield in 1951 is 11.186. (The comparability factor for each district is supplied by the Registrar-General and the aim is to even out the differences in age and sex distribution of the population of the various districts. The use of this factor allows us to obtain standardised Death Rates which are more fairly comparable and accurate than the crude Death Rates.)

Birth Rate

The Birth Rate in 1951 was 13.6 per 1,000 population and is the lowest figure registered for some years.

The highest figure available was that of 1893, namely 24.28, and the lowest in 1929—that of 10.89. The comparability factor was .99 and the standardised birth rate was therefore 13.46 for 1951.

In 1951 the live births exceeded the number of deaths by 81.

Infant Mortality

The Infant Mortality Rate in 1951 was 15.4 per 1,000 population related live births, a slight increase on 1950 but still relatively low. It compares favourably with the rate of 29.6 for England and Wales.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Laboratories

The Ministry of Health directs the Public Health Laboratory Service. One of the constituent laboratories is the Birmingham Public Health Laboratory under the direction of the bacteriologist Dr. Sandiford. This Laboratory serves Birmingham and parts of the surrounding areas.

The Laboratory undertakes the examination of specimens for the diagnosis of cases or suspected carriers of infectious disease. It also tests milk and ice cream for bacterial content, and investigates bacterial contamination of food in cases of suspected food poisoning.

Ambulance Services

On the 5th July, 1948, the ambulance services in the Borough came under the control of the Warwickshire County Council via the National Health Service.

The Sutton Coldfield Ambulance Service is centred on the Ambulance Depot in Boldmere Road. Four ambulances and two sitting case cars are available with a staff of approximately 18 men and 1 woman. All are experienced drivers and qualified in first-aid, and a day and night service is maintained.

In the year 1951, 9,094 patients were dealt with, involving a mileage of 69,157.

Home Nursing

In February 1949 all District Nursing and Midwifery Services were taken over by the Warwickshire County Council.

There were in 1951 seven District Nurse/Midwives and one District Nurse, and the work of these nurses is supervised from the Area Health Office in the Public Health Department by the Area Nursing Officer, who is responsible to the County Nursing Officer for the standard of nursing in the area.

Clinics and Centres in 1951

SCHOOL CLINIC 9 HOLLAND STREET, SUTTON COLDFIELD

Monday	-	-	A.M.	AURAL CLINIC (First and third Mondays in month). TUBERCULOSIS CLINIC (Second Monday in month). EYE CLINIC (Fourth Monday in month).
			P.M.	DENTAL CLINIC.
Tuesday	-	-	A.M.	DENTAL CLINIC.
			P.M.	CONSULTATION CLINIC.
Wednesday	-	-	A.M.	DENTAL CLINIC.
			P.M.	DENTAL CLINIC.
Thursday	-	-	A.M.	EYE CLINIC.
Friday	-	-	A.M.	DENTAL CLINIC.

WELFARE CENTRE 49 HOLLAND STREET, SUTTON COLDFIELD

Monday	-	-	A.M.	SUN-RAY CLINIC (Winter months only).
			P.M.	CHILD WELFARE CLINIC.
Tuesday	-	-	A.M.	ANTE AND POST NATAL CLINIC (Alternate weeks).
			P.M.	EXERCISE CLINIC (Children).
Wednesday	-	-	A.M.	SPEECH THERAPY CLINIC (Children). SOCIAL WELFARE CLINIC (First and third Wednesdays in month).
			P.M.	SPEECH THERAPY CLINIC (Children).
Thursday	-	-	A.M.	SUN-RAY CLINIC (Winter months only).
			P.M.	EXERCISE CLINIC (Children).
Friday	-	-	P.M.	ANTE AND POST NATAL EXERCISE CLINIC.

**WELFARE CENTRE
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH HALL, BELWELL LANE, FOUR OAKS,
SUTTON COLDFIELD**

Tuesday - - P.M. CHILD WELFARE, ANTE AND POST NATAL
CLINIC (Combined).

**WELFARE CENTRE
BRITWELL HALL, BRITWELL ROAD,
BOLDMERE, SUTTON COLDFIELD**

Wednesday - A.M. ANTE AND POST NATAL CLINIC (Alternate weeks).
TODDLER CLINIC (Alternate weeks).
P.M. CHILD WELFARE CLINIC.

**WELFARE CENTRE
THE GREEN, MINWORTH**

Wednesday - P.M. CHILD WELFARE, ANTE AND POST NATAL
CLINIC (Combined) (Alternate weeks).

**WELFARE CENTRE
WALMLEY ROAD, WALMLEY**

Thursday - - P.M. CHILD WELFARE, ANTE AND POST NATAL
CLINIC (Combined).

**WELFARE CENTRE
BANNERS GATE ROAD, BANNERS GATE**

Friday - - A.M. ANTE/POST NATAL AND TODDLER CLINIC
(Alternate weeks).
P.M. CHILD WELFARE CLINIC.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

These services were transferred to the Warwickshire County Council in 1948, the Medical Officer of Health remaining in administrative charge as Area Medical Officer. In this work of Maternity and Child Welfare he is assisted by one full-time and one part-time Medical Officer and an Area Nursing Officer, who supervises the nursing services in the area.

Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics

As will be seen from the lists, ante-natal and post-natal clinic sessions are held at all the six clinics in Sutton Coldfield. Since the inception of the National Health Service Act the number of mothers attending these clinics have continued to decline.

In this town in 1951 approximately 74% of the confinements took place in institutions, the number having risen from 52% in 1946. The local maternity unit runs its own ante-natal and post-natal clinics and this also affects the attendances at local health authority clinics.

Naturally the work of the domiciliary midwife has decreased, but it is combined in this town with district nursing, and, since the latter has shown an increase, no lack of work has resulted.

Patients still attend their general practitioner for ante-natal care and also go to various clinics and institutions for ante-natal and post-natal examination. In this way they waste the time of

doctors and nurses. On the other hand, at the local authority clinics they can get a type of health education on matters of interest and importance to them, which they would otherwise miss if no local health authority clinic attendance was made. This type of thing is inherent in a Health Service divided into three virtually separate services—Hospital, General Practitioner and Local Health Authority.

Maternal Mortality

There was one maternal death in the Borough during 1951.

Infantile Mortality

There were 648 live births in the Borough in 1951 and 10 deaths of infants under a year, giving an infantile mortality rate of 15.4. The rate for England and Wales was 29.6.

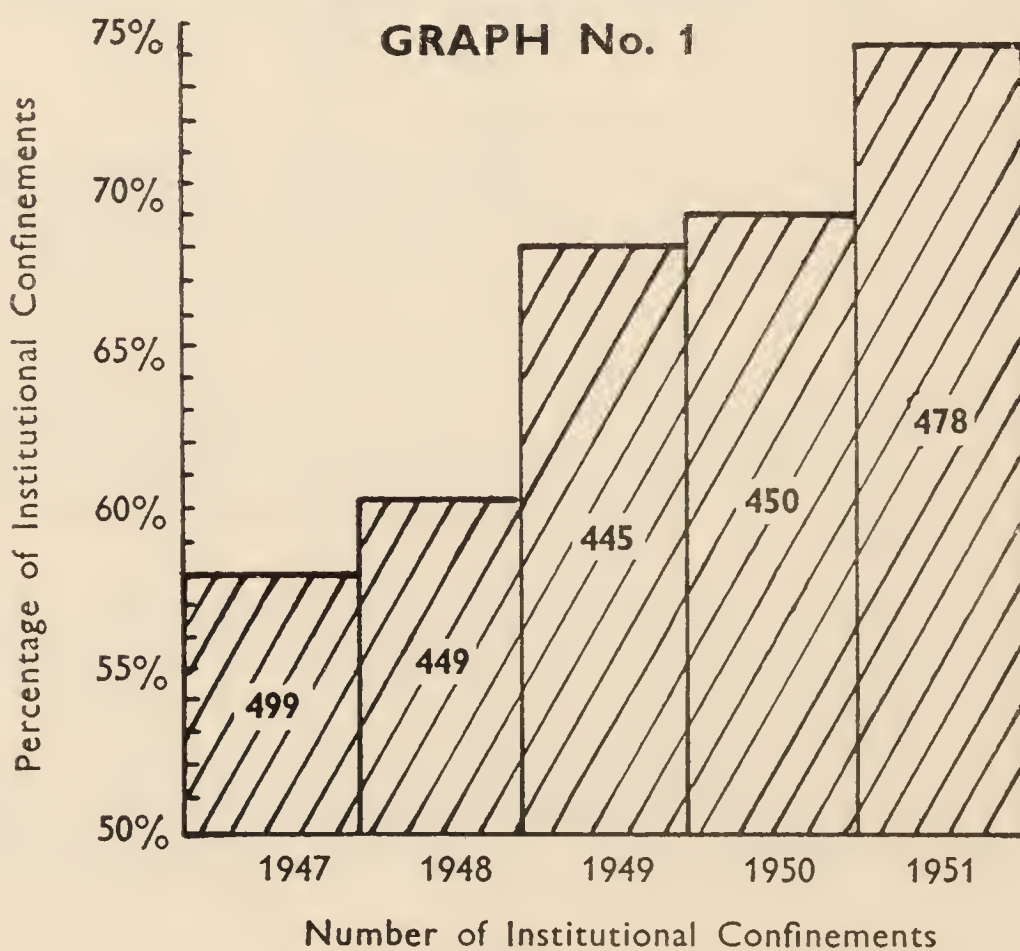
Hospital Accommodation for Maternity Cases

There were 648 live births during 1951.

The Sutton Coldfield Maternity Unit carried the bulk of the institutional confinements with a total of 241 confinements. Domiciliary confinements amounted to 165, and Birmingham Hospitals, Maternity Wards and Private Nursing Homes covered the remainder.

Cases which for social reasons cannot remain at home are visited by the local health authority midwives and referred where appropriate to the Regional Hospital Board for admission to a maternity ward.

**Maternity Accommodation
Number and Percentage of Institutional Confinements
for the Past Five Years**



Diphtheria Immunisation

The local health authority is responsible for carrying out this and effort is made to ensure that every child under one has been immunised. A boosting dose is offered to all children in their first year at school.

Domestic Help

This Service is run now by the Local Health Authority, Warwickshire County Council, and is used to great effect.

The day-to-day administration of this service is organised by the Area Health Department, and from the number of letters received, the service is greatly appreciated by those attended. 3,901 attendances were made by domestic helps on the 266 individual cases receiving help during the year.

Day Nurseries

There are no day nurseries in Sutton Coldfield but where necessary, arrangements can be made by the Local Health Authority for children to be admitted to Birmingham nurseries. These facilities are limited to children of widowed, single, separated and divorced women who must work to support their children.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA WATER SUPPLY

There are three systems of water supply in the Borough :—

- (a) The South Staffordshire Waterworks undertaking. (This serves the majority of the populated area of the Borough.)
- (b) The Birmingham City Water Undertaking. (This serves certain areas of the Borough adjacent to the Birmingham City Boundary.)
- (c) Private Supplies. (Spring or well supplies in the outlying and rural areas of the Borough).

Some notes of these three systems are given below :—

(a) Public Water Supplies

(1) The South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.

The above undertaking serves approximately 90% of the population of the Borough.

The supply to Sutton Coldfield is part of a system which includes five underground sources and a surface source from the River Blithe (Staffordshire). The water at four of the underground sources is sterilised by chlorine and the River Blithe water is treated by rapid gravity filtration in addition to chlorination.

The supply is not softened, and its average total hardness is 214 parts per million, with a permanent hardness of 96 parts per million.

All the sources of supply are examined regularly both bacteriologically and chemically and samples are also examined bacteriologically of the water prior to chlorination.

Of the five underground sources of supply, 62 samples of raw water were examined bacteriologically during 1951 and all were found to be free from coliform bacteria. From these pumping stations a further 121 samples were examined of the treated water pumped into supply and all these were likewise found to be free from coliform bacteria. There was no water from the River Blithe source supplied to the Borough during 1951.

Regular monthly tap samples are taken at three premises within the Borough, and during 1951 a total of 39 such samples were examined, all of which were found to be free from coliform bacteria.

The water is not liable to plumbo solvency and 36 out of the 39 tap samples were found to be free from any detectable trace of lead.

Throughout the year checks for residual chlorine were made with satisfactory results.

The chlorination practised at the pumping stations is a precautionary measure.

Special apparatus and staff are available to deal with possible contamination from burst mains or the bringing into service of new mains and reservoirs. These works are not put into service until satisfactory samples have been obtained from them.

The quantity of water during the year has been ample for all purposes and the water supplied has maintained a high and consistent standard of purity.

Within the area of supply in the Borough 13,198 houses are supplied direct and 42 by means of standpipes. Details of the mainlaying carried out in the Borough during 1951 are as follows :

Falcon Lodge Estate.

95 yds. of 3" main.
1,725 yds. of 4" main.
144 yds. of 6" main.
686 yds. of 9" main.

Bulls Lane Scheme, Wishaw.

5,038 yds. of 4" main.
753 yds. of 6" main.

Halton Road Site.

130 yds. of 4" main.

Grove End. (Supply for Meriden R.D.C.)

32 yds. of 3" main.
39 yds. of 4" main.

Park Road and Clifton Road.

8 yds. of 4" main. } Cross connection between existing
6 yds. of 6" main. } mains.

A copy of one of the bacteriological and chemical examinations made by the Public Analyst, is given below :—

Bacteriological

Number of colonies capable of growth on Agar-Agar in two days at 37° C. per c.c.	...	...	...	64
Number of colonies capable of growth on Reibel-Agar in two days at 37° C. per c.c.	...	...	...	4
Number of colonies capable of growth on Agar-Agar in four days at 20° C. per c.c.	...	...	...	108
Presumptive <i>B. Coli</i> in 100 c.c.	...	...	...	Absent

Chemical (Results expressed in parts per 100,000)

Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.0006
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.0016
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	...	2.8
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites	...	...	...	...	0.26
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 80° F. in four hours	...	...	...	...	0.003
Total Solids dried at 100° C.	...	...	...	...	35
Nitrite	...	...	...	...	Trace
Appearance	...	...	...	Bright, few small particles	

The above and the bacteriological result show that this water is of excellent quality and safe for use as a public supply.

(Signed) BOSTOCK HILL & RIGBY,

Public Analysts.

(2) The Birmingham City Water Undertaking.

In the majority, the supply is taken from collecting areas in Wales, and the water is treated by slow or rapid sand filtration followed by chlorination. After chlorination the treated water remains underground until it reaches the consumer. The hardness of the water varies according to the districts supplied and the origin of the supply.

Birmingham Water Undertaking have laid no mains extensions within the Borough during 1951.

A copy of a report of a sample of the water submitted to the Public Analyst is reproduced overleaf.

Bacteriological

Number of colonies capable of growth on Agar-Agar in two days at 37° C. per c.c.	21
Number of colonies capable of growth on Reibel-Agar in two days at 37° C. per c.c.	1
Number of colonies capable of growth on Agar-Agar in four days at 20° C. per c.c.	120
Presumptive <i>B. Coli</i> in 100 c.c.	Absent

Chemical (Results expressed in parts per 100,000)

Free and Saline Ammonia	0
Albuminoid Ammonia	0
Chlorine in Chlorides	1.3
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites	0.005
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 80° F. in four hours	0.088
Total solids dried at 100° C.	5
Nitrite	Absent
Appearance	Bright, few small particles.

The above and the bacteriological result show that this water is of a very good quality and suitable for use as a public supply.

(Signed) BOSTOCK HILL & RIGBY,
Public Analysts.

(b) Private Water Supplies

In the rural parts of the district, outside the area of the piped supplies, there are 79 houses on small private supplies, *i.e.*, springs or wells. Some of these are being eliminated by the houses concerned being connected to the main supply, as the area of the mains extend.

During the year, three samples were taken from these supplies and submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination. Of these, one was of suspicious quality and the other two were reported as unsatisfactory. All three samples were obtained from wells situate in areas where it is anticipated that mains supply will be shortly available.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The main drainage of the town was undertaken in 1887 and runs by way of the valley of Plantsbrook to the Tame and Rea District Drainage Board in an egg-shaped main sewer which is 4ft. 6in. × 3ft. at its outfall at Minworth.

Boldmere was drained in 1900 and here in parts of Jockey Road a depth of 60 feet was attained.

In Jockey Road at the present time, in the event of a severe rain storm, the foul sewer is unable to cope with the demands made on it and causes severe flooding, the flood material being the contents of the foul sewer. This problem has recently been considered by the Highways Committee with representations from the Health Committee, and it is hoped that the Ministry of Health will agree to the expenditure of the considerable sum of money required to carry out the necessary improvements in the Jockey Road area.

The main drainage of the Streetly area was completed in the early part of this century, and a sewage lift operates in Streetly Lane owing to the low level of the sewer.

The sewage from the area east of Walmley Road drains to the new sewage disposal works at Langley Farm.

In 1950 sewers were completed in Weeford Road, Queslett Road, Stonehouse Road and in the Park, and a surface water sewer was laid in Bakers Lane. This year main sewers have been laid in Clarence Road, Hillside Road, as part of the Lichfield Road drainage scheme. Sewers were laid in Birmingham Road to prevent localised flooding.

Sewers Laid

Foul sewers consisting of 6" to 9" pipes and surface water sewers of 6" to 30" pipes.

Foul water sewers :—

Falcon Lodge Estate (stage 4) ...	...	270 lin. yds.
Clarence Road ...	...	430 lin. yds.

Surface water sewers :—

Falcon Lodge Estate ...	...	1,150 lin. yds.
Walmley Ash Road ...	...	350 lin. yds.
Clarence Road ...	...	900 lin. yds.
Lichfield Road /Hillside Road ...	...	600 lin. yds.

292 connections have been made to Corporation houses and 46 to private houses.

HOUSES NOT CONNECTED TO MAIN DRAINAGE

There are 106 houses connected to cesspools and 213 houses using pail closets in the Borough. These are distributed as follows :—

	Cesspools	Pail Closets
Hill Ward ...	48	89
Trinity Ward ...	1	—
Walmley ...	57	123
Boldmere West ...	—	1

During 1951, five cesspool drainage systems were connected to the main sewer, and four pail closets were converted to water closets and connected to the main system.

The Corporation provides a cesspool emptying service on payment for the non-sewer areas of the Borough. Pail closets are not emptied by the Corporation, and, as most are situate in isolated rural areas they are emptied by the occupiers and the contents buried in the gardens.

Cesspools and pail closets are a primitive and makeshift method of sanitation, and active steps must be taken to secure their elimination as the opportunity arises.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

These services are carried out by the Borough Surveyor's Department under the direction of the Highways Committee.

House Refuse Collection and Disposal (Combined)

Cwts. collected per 1,000 population per day	11.77 cwts.
Tonnage of refuse collected for year	... 10,264 tons, 15 cwts.
Tonnage destroyed in Refuse Destructor...	10,237 tons, 2 cwts.
Tonnage tipped	... .. 27 tons, 13 cwts.

Street Cleaning and Gulley Cleaning

There are 121 miles of roads in the Borough. The method of street cleaning includes the use of street orderly carts and the "Lewin" mechanical road sweeper.

Gulley emptying is carried out by means of two Shelvoke and Drury Gulley emptiers.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

There are no rivers in Sutton Coldfield but a number of streams which are not subject to pollution except in isolated instances. The main stream running under the Parade and alongside the Bus Depot, has been contaminated from time to time with Diesel oil and active steps have been taken to eliminate this.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The Sanitary Inspectorate of the Borough consists of one Senior Sanitary Inspector and three Assistant Sanitary Inspectors.

To carry out the normal sanitary inspection of an area, a minimum of one sanitary inspector per 10,000 population was recommended by the Local Government Board in 1910. The number of inspectors in Sutton Coldfield has been based on this figure, but in view of the increase in population and the increased duties generally, it is likely that this figure should be nearer one

per 8,000 population. The population of the Borough is now 48,000 approximately and therefore four sanitary inspectors would appear inadequate as the ratio here is approximately one per 12,000.

At present it is difficult enough to deal with complaints and little margin is left for the essential and important matter of routine inspection necessary for progressive improvement of the sanitary conditions of the area.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The total number of visits and inspections made by the sanitary inspectors during the year was 9,206. 863 complaints were received and investigated.

A summary of the work of the sanitary inspectors during the year is given in the following Tabular Statement.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTORS' ANNUAL TABULAR STATEMENTS

VISITS

Housing

Re Defects	2,619
Overcrowding	177
Dirty or Verminous Houses	118

Drainage

Re Defects	302
Surface Water, Ditches, Streams, etc.	25
Cesspools and Sewage Disposal Systems	185

Water Supply	448
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Refuse and Dustbins	1,032
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Infectious Disease	570
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Refuse Destructor and Tips	130
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Atmospheric Pollution Investigations	79
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Insect Pests, etc.	98
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Rats and Mice Destruction	192
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Food

Bakehouses	124
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Butchers' Shops	107
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Bakers' Shops	47
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Chemists	14
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Fish Shops	79
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Greengrocers' Shops	92
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Grocers' Shops	309
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Ice Cream Dealers' Shops	128
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Sweet Shops	39
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Wine Shops/Beer Offs	7
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Hotels/Restaurants/Canteens	148
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Licensed Premises	35
Food Factories	16
School Meals Centres	3
Slaughterhouses	4
Meat Transports	2
Public Halls	19
Preserved Food Manufacturers	11
Other Premises	1
Food Poisoning Investigations	12
Milk Premises and Transports	91
Inspection of Food	363
Sampling of Water Supplies and Food Supplies	539
Factories Act Inspection	184
Workplaces, Offices and Sports Grounds	85
Other Premises	
Movable Dwellings	42
Swimming Baths	6
Schools and Public Halls	44
Public Conveniences	66
Stables, Pig Sties, Farms, etc.	425
Other Visits	189
Total No. of Inspections and Visits	9,206

WORK DONE

Housing

Number of houses inspected for housing defects ...	681
Number of houses recorded under Housing Regulations	11
Number of houses requiring repair	234
Number of houses repaired without formal action ...	222

NOTICES under the Public Health Act, 1936

						Informal	Formal			
							Public Health Act, 1936			
							S.39	S.45	S.75	S.93
Outstanding 31/12/50	...	...	...	36	1	—	4	6
Served during 1951	...	...	...	235	1	1	116	21
				271	2	1	120	27		
Outstanding 31/12/51	...	...	...	50	1	—	3	8
Complied with during 1951	...	...	...	221	1	1	117	19

WORK REQUIRED BY ABOVE NOTICES

Drainage

Drains unchoked or repaired	...	...	...	...	15
W.C.'s repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	42
Cesspools cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	5

Water Supply

Provide internal supply	...	...	...	...	31
Repair service pipes	...	...	...	...	1

Roofs

Repair	...	...	...	...	109
Rainwater conduits repair	37

Walls

External repair	49
Plaster repair	62

Doors —Repair or renew	13
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Windows —Repair or renew	52
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Ceilings —Repair	23
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Floors —Repair or renew	30
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Chimneys —Repair	30
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Staircases —Repair	2
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Sinks —Repair or renew	20
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Washing Coppers —Repair	5
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Fireplaces —Repair or renew	15
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Dustbins —Provide	161
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Informal Notices under Food and Drugs Acts	85
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Informal Notices under Factories Acts	10
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Disinfections carried out after Infectious Disease	46
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SHOPS AND OFFICES

In regard to inspection of Shops and Offices, inspections were made under Section 38 of the Shops Act, 1950, and in certain instances action was taken. Unfortunately owing to the above-mentioned shortage of staff it has not been possible to carry out the systematic survey of shops that one would have desired, but in time when staff is adequate this will be done. Where complaints have been received however, these have been dealt with, in nearly all cases, with the active co-operation of the shopkeepers concerned.

CARAVANS AND CAMPING SITES

There are no camping sites in the town apart from one small private site off Birmingham Road in Wylde Green, but a number of caravans are sited in various parts of the town. These have caused little difficulty from a public health point of view.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

The Borough is fortunate in being free from widespread industrial development and there is no extensive smoke abatement problem in the area. Periodic check-ups are made on the factory chimneys in the area and advice given where infringements are noted, the co-operation of the Ministry of Fuel and Power Engineers being sought as necessary.

In the Minworth area a problem has arisen concerning smoke emission from a group of factories involved in metallurgical processes, and discussions are taking place with the management concerning the best practicable means to minimise the present nuisance.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

During the year the public made good use of the swimming baths and pool at Keepers where a small but efficient breakpoint chlorination plant produced satisfactory swimming water in the baths.

The Baths staff make a daily check of the residual chlorine in the water and the sanitary inspector checks this periodically.

Samples taken at busy times previously showed some contamination, but in 1951 a system of staggered bathing hours in the baths and limitation of the numbers admitted allowed the plant to deal with the problem adequately.

During the season samples of the water were taken for bacteriological and chemical examination and one of the Analyst's reports is reproduced hereunder :

Bacteriological

Number of colonies capable of growth on Agar-Agar in two days at 37°C. per c.c.	...	...	...	0
Number of colonies capable of growth on Rebigel-Agar in two days at 37°C. per c.c.	...	...	...	0
Number of colonies capable of growth on Agar-Agar in four days at 20°C. per c.c.	...	...	...	17
Presumptive B. Coli in 100 c.c.	...	Absent in 100 c.c.		

Chemical

Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.136
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.088
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	...	7.1
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites	...	...	...	...	Minute trace
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 80°F. in four hours	...	...	...	...	0.304
Total solids dried at 100°C.	...	...	...	...	28
Nitrite	...	...	...	...	Absent
pH	...	...	...	...	7.5
Free Chlorine	...	...	...	...	Absent
Appearance	...	Very slightly turbid, very many particles.			
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate.	12.0				

The above results show that in its present condition this water is safe for use in a public swimming bath.

(Signed) BOSTOCK HILL & RIGBY,
Public Analysts.

In regard to the silting up of pools, a start was made in the clearing out of the pools with Powells Pool and it is hoped to proceed with the others in due course. This will help to drain the surrounding areas.

DISINFESTATION

During 1951, 118 visits were made to dirty houses. Disinfestation was carried out by the Public Health Department where necessary, the methods used varying according to the premise and type of infestation, but incorporating sulphur fumigation, D.D.T. vapour fumigation and spraying with standard proprietary insecticide. These methods have been found to be quite effective.

In order to prevent the spread of infestation to new Council Houses a number of the tenants moved from two clearance areas had their belongings treated during removal in a H.C.N. van hired from a neighbouring authority.

MOSQUITO CONTROL

The question of mosquito control and insects generally has been closely studied during the year, and the potential and actual breeding places of the insects in Sutton Park and adjoining areas carefully investigated in collaboration with Dr. Edney of the University of Birmingham Zoology Department.

The report received from the investigators was as follows :

REPORT CONCERNING THE MOSQUITOES AND MIDGES BREEDING IN SUTTON PARK, SUTTON COLDFIELD, IN 1951

A total of six visits throughout the season were made to the park, the first was a preliminary survey and the others were for the purpose of making collections from the various sites listed below. The results of these collections so far as mosquitoes are concerned are summarised in the following table ; the midges are dealt with separately at the end of the report.

SUMMARY OF COLLECTIONS

In the following summary 'l'=larvae, 'p'=pupae, and 'a'=adults. Where only one stage is shown as having been collected, this should not be taken to mean that the other stages were necessarily absent. Where an area is shown as 'negative', this should not be taken to mean that no mosquitoes at all are breeding there, but rather that none or very few were found, so that the area is not considered a dangerous one.

Streetly Common

Aedes punctor (l and p)

Longmoor

Aedes punctor (l)

Culex pipiens (l), *Aedes punctor* (a)

Aedes punctor (a), *Aedes cinereus* (a), *Anopheles claviger* (a)

Wyndley Pools

Aedes annulipes (a)

Anopheles claviger (l). *Aedes annulipes* (a)

Aedes annulipes (a), *Anopheles claviger* (a)

Little Bracebridge

Aedes cinereus (l), *Anopheles claviger* (a)

Culex pipiens (l and p), *Anopheles claviger* (l)

Bracebridge Pool

Negative.

Blackroot Pool

Anopheles claviger (a), *Aedes punctor* (l and a)

Powell's Pool

Anopheles claviger (p)

There are thus five species of mosquitoes breeding in the park ; brief notes on their habits and breeding places follow :—

NOTES ON THE BIOLOGY OF THE SPECIES COLLECTED

Culex pipiens

Breeds in natural or artificial collections of foul, fresh or moderately brackish water. Hibernates as an adult in houses and out-buildings from October to April. Common in houses but rarely, if ever, bites man.

Anopheles claviger

Breeds mainly in weedy pools or pond edges in shady situations. Winters as a larva from November to March. Bites man out of doors.

Aedes cinereus

Breeds in fresh water marshes and pools. A one-generation species, existing from October to March in the egg. Bites man out of doors.

Aedes annulipes

Breeds in open swamps or partly shaded fresh-water pools. Winters from October to January in the egg, then until March as a larva. Bites man out of doors.

Aedes punctor

Breeds in temporary ground pools. Winters as a larva from November to March. Bites man viciously in the open. Occasionally enters houses.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS SURVEYS

Previous surveys have been made by the Hayling Island Mosquito Control Institute, in 1928, 1929, and 1932, and we have been able to examine their results.

There is at present a striking absence of *Theobaldia morsitans*, which was common in 1932, and also of *Th. annulata*, which was found at Wyndley Pool in 1928, and in the Hartopp Road area in 1929. *Th. morsitans* is not a biter of man, but *Th. annulata* is one of the most vicious of British mosquitoes.

The area known as "Longmoor" appears to have deteriorated since the last survey was made (1932) when nothing was recorded (it was recorded as "dry" in 1929). To-day this is one of the worst areas, both for mosquitoes and midges.

The areas known as "Upper Nut Hurst," "Hartopp Road" and "Gum Slade" appear to have improved. They were not visited by us, since they are no longer considered to be dangerous areas.

Apart from the above-mentioned changes, the general situation appears to be similar to that of twenty years ago.

THE AREAS INVESTIGATED AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THEIR IMPROVEMENT

We do not feel competent to do more than make suggestions as to methods of control. We would stress, however, that the mosquito and midge situation is, in places, extremely bad. The reports of local residents, which we have been allowed to see, and personal experience, both leave no doubt on this point. We are confident, however, that very considerable improvement in the situation could be made if work is carried out as recommended below.

1. Wyndley Pool

At least three species are breeding here, mainly in the pools and ditches to the west of the main pool. This area could be improved by constructing a clean boundary to the western margin of the pool, and by draining the land to the west of this, by ditching, and leading the water round the west end of the main dam. The clearing out of Wyndley Pool is the most important step in the successful drainage of this area.

2. Longmoor

This is one of the worst areas, and the most difficult to deal with. Mosquitoes and midges are breeding in the swampy pools over a very large area, and they congregate for feeding particularly in and around the small wood at the southern side of the pool. The area could be improved by large scale draining operations—alternatively large scale spraying (against midges particularly) might be undertaken (see opposite).

3. Powell's Pool

This does not seem to be one of the worst areas at present. Mosquitoes are breeding here however, chiefly in the small pools and swamps along the sides of the main stream leading to the pool.

4. Little Bracebridge

This again is a bad area. Mosquitoes are breeding all around the small pool. It could be improved by enlarging the pool and building clean cut boundaries, or by draining the whole depression into Bracebridge proper.

5. Streetly Common

Mosquitoes are breeding in quantity all along the edge of the railway embankment, where water collects.

6. Blackroot Pool

The swampy wood above the pool is a danger spot, though not, in our experience, one of the worst. The area could be drained by three or four channels running into Blackroot Pool. The area above this wood appears to be relatively innocuous.

MIDGES

It seems likely that many of the complaints from local residents, and users of the park, concern midges. These insects are breeding in small numbers in several areas, but in very large numbers in the Longmoor and Streetly Common areas. The species concerned are *Culicoides impunctatus* and *C. obsoletus*.

There is no generally recognised method of solving the midge problem, for they will breed in a large variety of damp or soggy situations, so that the whole of the low-lying parts of the two regions mentioned are breeding grounds. Effectively to prevent midges breeding here would mean permanently altering the character of the area, by large scale drainage and works.

Spraying with suitable insecticides if applied before adult emergence begins could reduce the insect population throughout the season.

A good deal of preliminary work, however, would be needed before undertaking such operations on the large scale necessary in Sutton Park, where conditions are very different from those where the work referred to was carried out.

On consideration of the above report a special Sub-Committee of the Health Committee was set up to deal with the matter in conjunction with the Park and Estates Committee, and the Borough Surveyor undertook to carry out drainage work, within his staff limitations, over a period. This problem is a difficult one and not easily overcome without the expenditure of a considerable sum on drainage and spraying, but it is hoped that steady progress will be maintained.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council provides a comprehensive service for the destruction of rats and mice on premises within the Borough. Two full-time Rodent Operatives are employed working on the methods laid down by the Infestation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

A summary of the work done in rodent destruction is as follows :—

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949
Report for year ended 31st December, 1951

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Agri-cultural	All other (including Business and Industrial)	Total
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	15	14,409	107	1,615	16,146
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1951 as a result (a) of notification or (b) otherwise	(a) 1	192	3	22	218
	(b) 8	1,602	7	78	1,695
III. Number of properties (under II) found to be infested by rats	Major				
	Minor	109	—	8	117
IV. Number of properties (under II) found to be seriously infested by mice		5	1	11	17
V. Number of infested properties (under III and IV) treated by the Local Authority		114	1	19	134

Note II, III, IV and V in each case relate to the number of properties inspected and not to the number of inspections, infestations or treatments at each property.

FACTORIES

The number of factories registered under the Factories Acts, 1937-48 is 157.

Generally no great difficulty is experienced in dealing with infringements in factory premises, and standards in the area are satisfactory.

Factories are inspected as a matter of routine by the sanitary inspectors, and, in some instances, infringements are brought to the notice of the department by H.M. Inspector of Factories. The number of notices required to be served during the year was ten, but it must be borne in mind that attention to minor infringements is drawn verbally by inspectors at the time of visit.

Particulars of the inspections of factories are set out in the following table.

PART I OF THE ACT

1. **Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	9	24	Nil	Nil	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	127	144	9	Nil	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	3	21	5	1	Nil	3
Total ...		157	173	10	Nil	

2. Cases in which **Defects** were found.

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)...	4	Nil	—	—		Nil	4
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	5	Nil	—	—		Nil	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	Nil	—	—		Nil	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	Nil	—	—		Nil	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	Nil	—	—		Nil	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) Insufficient ...	9	Nil	—	—		Nil	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	7	7	—	3	Nil	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	3	3	—	1	Nil	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	12	Nil	Nil	—		Nil	12
Total ...	60	10	10	—	4		60

OUTWORKERS

There are sixteen persons in the Borough registered with the local authority as performing work of a registerable nature in their own homes, as defined in the Factories Acts.

The premises on which this work is carried out are visited periodically by the sanitary inspectors but no contraventions of the Act were noted during the year.

SCHOOLS

During 1951 visits of inspections were made by sanitary inspectors to schools. All sanitary conveniences were regularly inspected and defects and lack of cleanliness attended to.

The sanitary circumstances of the schools were, generally speaking, satisfactory. All schools are provided with main water supplies, washing facilities, water closets and urinals which are, on the whole, reasonably satisfactory.

SECTION 47, NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

This section empowers the Council, where the Medical Officer of Health certifies that the removal is necessary, to take steps to secure the removal of persons in need of care and attention to suitable premises.

The Public Health Committee have empowered the Medical Officer of Health to carry out these requirements in urgent cases without further reference to them, and this facilitates action in these cases. During the year it was found possible to have two such persons removed without recourse to application for an order.

SECTION D HOUSING

Housing Conditions

The housing situation continues to be a difficult one and it is not easy to assess the requirements.

During the year 1951 excellent strides were made and the rate of completion of houses in 1951 has been higher than any previous year since the end of the war.

Dwellings handed over to the Corporation during 1951	292
Houses erected by private enterprise during 1951 ...	43
<hr/>	
Total houses erected in 1951 ...	335
<hr/>	
Council houses still under construction at 31/12/51...	217
Private enterprise houses still under construction at 31/12/51	38
<hr/>	
Total houses still under construction at 31/12/51 ...	255

Corporation Housing as at 31 /12 /51

Temporary houses completed	...	...	...	...	100
Permanent dwellings completed	...	...	...	...	1,073
Permanent dwellings under construction	...	...	...	...	217
Tenders approved by Ministry of Housing and Local Government	...	...	...	...	78
Tenders awaiting approval of Ministry of Housing and Local Government	...	...	...	...	27

Private Enterprise Housing as at 31 /12 /51

Number of houses completed since 1 /8 /45	...	...	...	427
Number of houses under construction	...	...	...	38
Number of houses licensed but not yet commenced	...	...	...	3
Number of houses allocated since 1 /7 /48	...	...	...	238
Number of licences actually issued	...	...	...	182

Since the end of the war tenders have been accepted for 1,395 dwellings and as stated above 1,073 have been completed. These together with 100 temporary bungalows and the 6 additional units provided by flat conversions make a total of 1,179 dwellings erected by the corporation. 427 houses built by private enterprise have been completed making the total number of 1,606 new dwellings built in the Borough since 1945.

Council Houses

Number of houses erected prior to 1945	...	...	...	609
Number of houses erected 1945-1951	...	...	...	1,073
Number of temporary dwellings	...	...	...	100
Number of additional units (flat conversions)	...	...	...	6
Total houses erected by the Council to 31 /12 /51	...	...	...	1,788
Number of applicants for houses on Council list at 4 /3 /52	...	...	...	1,725
Number of applicants for bungalows on Council list at 4 /3 /52	...	...	...	299
Total number of applicants for re-housing as at 4 /3 /52	...	...	...	2,024

Total number of inhabited houses at 31 /12 /51 ... 14,929

<i>Year</i>	<i>Inhabited Houses Mid-year</i>	<i>Population Mid-year</i>	<i>Persons per Occupied House</i>
1947	13,618	45,280	3.325
1948	13,887	46,190	3.326
1949	14,155	46,580	3.291
1950	14,391	47,440	3.296
1951	14,871	47,790	3.214

Existing Housing Conditions

It is not possible to give accurately the real extent of the problem owing to lack of up-to-date information on existing housing conditions and needs. This is due to the fact that, as previously mentioned, it is not possible with the present staff to carry out systematic inspection but only deal with what appears to be the worst cases. It is not possible therefore to obtain a true picture.

During the year action was taken in the case of four blocks of properties totalling 28 houses, and demolition will be completed in 1952.

One of the major problems in the housing sphere is of course the question of repair of old property. Many houses are getting into a poor state of repair and with rents being low in relation to cost of repair, it is small wonder that owners of such properties are reluctant to have repairs done. This in itself causes more work for the Public Health staff in ensuring that such essential repairs are carried out.

A summary of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors is shown in the following table :—

Housing Inspection

Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) 681
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... 2,619
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under Subhead (1) above) where inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 11
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... 64
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 11

4.	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	234
5.	Remedy of defects during the year, without service of formal notices :	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence	222
6.	Action under Statutory powers during the year :—	
(a)	Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936.	
(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices served requiring repairs ...	None
(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	
(a)	By owners	None
(b)	By local authorities in default of owners	None
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices served requiring defects to be remedied	140
(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
(a)	By owners	81
(b)	By local authority in default	59
7.	Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936—	
(i)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	None
(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	None
8.	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936—	
(i)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or rooms having been rendered fit	None
9.	Proceedings under Section 25 of the Housing Act 1936—	
(i)	Number of houses included in Clearance Areas	None
(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished as a result of Clearance Area procedure ...	13

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food, by reason of its very nature, is subject to infection by contaminating bacteria and may become dangerous. It can be contaminated by excess preservatives or by chemical substances of a harmful nature. It can be also adulterated in other ways. But many types of originally clean and pure food can be rendered unsafe and spoiled by reason of mishandling and unsuitable storage. Pathogenic bacteria can be introduced and by rapid multiplication causes epidemics of infectious disease and food poisoning.

Food hygiene attempts to prevent and minimise such practices. It can prevent good food being spoiled, an important matter these days, and prevent it being so mishandled as to render it dangerous to the public.

In the last few years a great deal more attention has been paid to the inspection and supervision of food premises, and every effort has been made to bring registers of food premises inspection up to date, but again shortage of staff has been a handicap in this work.

Improvement of Food Premises

Premises cleansed or redecorated	...	...	...	34
Washing facilities provided or improved	...	...	...	17
Premises voluntarily closed	...	...	...	1
Sanitary accommodation provided or improved	...	...	...	8
Food storage accommodation improved	...	...	...	8
Equipment cleansed	...	...	...	5
Structural repairs to premises	...	...	...	6
Cloakroom facilities improved	...	...	...	1
Refuse storage improved	...	...	...	3

From routine inspection of food premises, a number of points arise concerning food hygiene. In particular, the varying standards in restaurant kitchens as regards space, type of construction and provision of equipment, requires some consideration. In some instances the work is carried on in totally inadequate rooms, particularly where businesses have started in a small way and expanded in premises where insufficient space is available to handle the increased trade.

In the absence of satisfactory legislation it is always a difficult task to persuade traders to incur heavy cost in reconstruction and extension, particularly in view of the present day prices and restrictions.

Considering the difficulties of labour, licences, cost of material, etc., the co-operation of management and response of the traders has been very good and they have, in some cases, gone beyond the standard required of them.

In addition to the above improvements effected, it should be borne in mind that the inspectors constantly bring to the notice of those concerned minor details requiring attention in connection with the maintenance of a high standard of food hygiene, and good culinary practice. There is no doubt that the mere fact that a regular inspection of the premises will be made serves as a useful spur in the maintenance of a high standard of cleanliness.

Clean Food

During the year the Council adopted Bye-laws for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food sold or intended for sale for human consumption, and in connection with the sale or exposure for sale in the open air of food intended for human consumption.

These Bye-laws are on the general lines of the Model Clean Food Bye-laws drafted by the Ministry of Food.

The new Bye-laws will be of considerable assistance in improving the general standard of Food Hygiene in the area.

Milk Supply

Dairies and Milk Shops

The number of Milk Distributors registered in the Borough is as follows :—

Wholesale and Retail Distributors	...	...	...	12
Retail Distributors resident in the Borough	...	...	...	12
Retail Distributors resident outside the Borough	...	...	...	12
Shopkeepers selling bottled milk only	...	...	...	22

The number of registered premises in the Borough is as under :—

Pasteuriser's Establishment	...	...	...	...	1
Bottled Milk Depots	...	...	...	...	3
Dairies	...	...	...	...	6
Shops selling bottled milk only	...	...	...	...	22

The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations

The following licences were granted :

Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk—

Pasteuriser's Licence	...	...	...	1
Dealers' Licences				
(a) Pasteurised	...	...	...	21
(b) Sterilised	...	...	...	36
Supplementary Licences :				
(a) Pasteurised	...	...	...	14
(b) Sterilised	...	...	...	15

Raw Milk

Dealers' Licences				
(a) T.T.	...	...	...	15
Supplementary Licences :				
(a) T.T.	...	...	...	15
(b) Accredited	...	...	...	1

Control and Distribution of Milk

Since 1st October, 1949, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has exercised control over the production of milk and the local authority has been responsible for the supervision of treatment and distribution of milk only.

This latter supervision is exercised by the inspection of premises, testing of plant, and frequent sampling of milk in the process of distribution to the consumer.

During the year, 91 inspections were made for the purpose and 208 samples were taken. Details of sampling and results are shown in the following table :—

Grade of Milk	Number of Samples	Results of Tests								
		Phosphatase		Methylene Blue			Turbidity		T.B.	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	N.T.*	Passed	Failed	Neg.	Pos.
Pasteurised ...	91	89	2	63	2	26			1	
T.T. Pasteurised	11	10	1	7	1	3				
T.T. Raw ...	5			2	3				1	
Sterilised ...	16			14		2	16			
Accredited ...	8			5	3				3	
Ungraded ...	77			62	14	1			21	1
Total ...	208	99	3	153	23	32	16		26	1

*Not Tested vide 3rd Schedule to Milk (Special Desig.) (Past. & Sterilised Milk) Regs. 1949, Part III.

Pasteurisation

It is gratifying to observe that a very high percentage of the milk sold in the Borough is of designated standard and that all milk supplied to schools in the Borough is of designated standard. There appears to be every prospect of the area becoming "a specified area" in the near future, and this will ensure that all supplies of milk comply with the "Special Designation" Regulations.

During the year one Pasteuriser's premises was licensed for the first time, and samples of milk taken since the commencement of operation have passed the prescribed tests. The plant is operated on the holder principle.

Ice Cream

There are 123 premises in the Borough registered for the manufacture or sale of ice cream. These are :—

- 1 registered for manufacture only.
- 16 registered for manufacture and sale.
- 106 registered for sale only.

Of those registered for manufacture or manufacture and sale, only three are at present manufacturing. Of these, one is producing a heat-treated article, and two others are producing a complete cold mix article.

A high proportion of those registered for sale only handle a prepacked article, and supplies, in the main, come from eleven different manufacturers. There appears to be a preference amongst the small shopkeepers for prepacked ice cream on the grounds of ease of handling, and this greatly assists in the hygienic control of this commodity.

It seems desirable that comment should be made on the loophole which exists in the existing legislation by the exclusion of cafes, restaurants, hotels, clubs, etc., from the registration provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, and the question of the desirability of the issue of some form of supplementary licence to street traders who enter the Borough from outside to sell their commodity is also well worthy of consideration. This particularly applies in a Borough of this nature, where the Park forms a major attraction to holiday makers and visitors, with its consequent effect upon visiting ice cream vendors.

17 samples of ice cream were taken during the year for bacteriological examination, and the results are as shown in the following table.

For the purpose of testing, the methylene blue reduction test, recommended by the Public Health Laboratory service, is used, and Grades 1 and 2 are normally considered as satisfactory, Grade 3 doubtful, and Grade 4 unsatisfactory.

Type	Number taken	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
From Manufacturers—Hot Mix ...	2	1	1	—	—
From Manufacturers—Cold Mix...	1	1	—	—	—
From Retailers	14	11	3	—	—
Total ...	17	13	4	—	—

During the same period 13 samples of ice cream were submitted for chemical analysis, of which 12 were reported as genuine and one as not satisfactory.

During the year a standard was prescribed by the Ministry of Food for ice cream by the Food Standard (Ice Cream) Order 1951, and a greater measure of control can now be exercised over the chemical composition of this very popular commodity.

A summary of the food content of samples of ice cream submitted for analysis during 1951 is given below :—

Sample Number	Prescribed Standard as from 1st March, 1951		
	5 per cent.	7½ per cent.	10 per cent.
	Fat	Solids, not Fat	Sugar
170*	3.6	6.7	13.66
171	6.3	8.94	11.89
172	9.00	11.74	12.66
173	11.25	9.06	14.22
177	9.9	8.6	13.5
178	13.0	10.5	14.6
180	13.0	16.7	Nil
181	14.4	10.2	9.4
182	13.5	7.5	10.0
199	Genuine	—	—
200	Genuine	—	—
201	Genuine	—	—
242	Genuine	—	—

*Taken prior to introduction of Legal Standard.

INSPECTION OF MEAT

The responsibility for the inspection of carcasses of animals slaughtered for human food, rests with the Birmingham City Authority under the Ministry of Food scheme for centralised slaughter, and there is no slaughterhouse in use in the Borough of Sutton Coldfield under this scheme.

A system is operated whereby notification is received from the Ministry of Food of Licences granted to private pig keepers for the slaughter of livestock, and the services of a qualified meat inspector are offered to such persons if desired.

During 1951, lists notifying 298 slaughters were received, but it was not possible to inspect all carcasses for a variety of reasons, including lack of access, notification of slaughter being received too late, etc.

In a number of instances abnormal conditions were found, requiring destruction of organs or parts of the carcass, and advice was given to owners in this connection.

There is no doubt that, during the present shortage of bacon, a considerable number of people are tempted to augment the rations by keeping one or two pigs, and some means should be made available for inspection of the meat obtained in this way. There is no legislation covering the matter, and it is therefore advisable that close co-operation with the local office of the Ministry of Food be maintained as regards issuing of Licences.

Inspection of Other Foods

Arising from the inspection of food in retail shops and the operation of a voluntary surrender scheme in the Borough the following food stuffs were condemned and surrendered for destruction :—

					lbs.	ozs.	No.
Raw Meat	...	...	...	...	800	10	
Bacon	...	...	...	...	74	12	
Poultry	...	...	...	...	79	0	
Sausage and Meat Products	...	...	...	...	21	0	
Fish	...	...	...	...	168	0	
Fats (Butter, Margarine, etc.)	...	...	...	...	0	8	
Cheese	...	...	...	...	59	0	
Fruit	...	...	...	...	44	8	
Dried Fruit	...	...	...	...	42	0	
Flour and Cereals	...	...	...	...	5	14	
Jams and Preserves	...	...	...	...	42	9	
Confectionery	...	...	...	...	7	6	
Other Foods	...	...	...	...	41	0	
Tinned Foodstuffs	...	...	...	...	2,749	13	1,877 tins
Eggs	...	...	...	...			72 doz.
Total					4,136	0	
(1 ton, 16 cwts. 3 qrs. 20 lbs.)							

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food

Analyses of samples of food and drugs taken under the Food and Drugs Act, are carried out by the Public Analyst for the Borough, F. G. Chalmers, Esq., M.A., B.Sc., F.R.I.C., of Messrs. Bostock, Hill & Rigby, who also carries out chemical examinations of food, water, etc., if required by this Department.

The Public Health Laboratory Service (Director : Dr. B. R. Sandiford), is in Great Charles Street, Birmingham, and foods are submitted to this Laboratory as necessary for bacteriological examination.

This service has proved extremely valuable to the Health Department in connection with the examination of milk, ice cream, food poisoning specimens, water, and in other special cases. The co-operation and advice of Dr. Sandiford and his assistants have been greatly appreciated.

In all 347 samples and specimens were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory during the year for bacteriological or microscopic examination, as under :—

Milk ...	...	...	...	...	208
Dysentery investigations ...	...	...	...	...	134
Food poisoning investigations	...	...	...	...	5

Food Poisoning

Number of outbreaks	...	...	...	2
Number of cases	...	...	...	6
Number of deaths	...	...	...	Nil

The number of cases during the year was 6 which is a slight increase over last year (5).

Again it was not possible to ascertain the responsible causes in any of the cases in spite of intensive search, and this is due to the late notification of the cases to the Health Department. I have drawn the general practitioners' attention to this point. In such cases the suspected food has to be retrieved from the dustbin, or has been burned, and no samples of any value can be obtained.

Food and Drugs Adulteration

144 samples of food and drugs were taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, by the inspectors, and forwarded to the Public Analyst for report. The following tables give details of samples taken, and the results of the analyses, with details of samples found to be unsatisfactory :—

Samples of	Formal	Informal	Total	Genuine	Adulterated
Batter Mixture	—	2	2	2	—
Biscuits	—	1	1	1	—
Cinnamon and Quinine ...	—	1	1	1	—
Coconut	—	1	1	1	—
Coffee, Essence and Extracts ...	—	3	3	3	—
Cream Coconut	—	1	1	1	—
Cream Whip	—	1	1	1	—
Crystallised Fruits	—	3	3	3	—
Fish Cakes	—	2	2	2	—
Flour, various	—	5	5	4	1
Gelatine	—	4	4	4	—
Haslet	—	1	1	1	—
Ice Cream	1	12	13	12	1
Jelly, Table	1	3	4	3	1
Jam	—	2	2	2	—
Lemons, Juice of	—	1	1	1	—
Mayonnaise and Salad Cream ...	—	3	3	3	—
Milk	34	3	37	34	3
Milk, Channel Island	4	—	4	4	—
Mincemeat	—	1	1	1	—
Mustard	—	1	1	1	—
Parsley, Dried	—	1	1	1	—
Paste, Fish	1	3	4	4	—
Paste, Meat	—	4	4	4	—
Pastry Mix	—	1	1	—	1
Patum Peperium	—	1	1	1	—
Peel, Cut, Mixed	—	2	2	2	—
Pepper, Pure or Comps. ...	—	3	3	3	—
Powder, Baking	—	3	3	3	—
Powder, Boracic Acid	—	1	1	1	—
Powder, Curry	—	3	3	3	—
Powder, Custard	—	1	1	1	—
Powder, Onion	—	1	1	1	—
Pudding, Christmas	—	5	5	5	—
Sauces	—	3	3	3	—
Sausage—all types	3	2	5	5	—
Sponge Mixture	—	2	2	2	—
Squash and Crush	—	4	4	4	—
Stuffing	—	2	2	2	—
Suet	—	1	1	1	—
Tartar, Cream of	—	1	1	1	—
Vinegar and Non-brewed Condi- ments	—	2	2	2	—
Wines	—	2	2	2	—
Yoghourt	—	1	1	—	1
Total ...	44	100	144	136	8

Mr. F. G. Chalmers, in his comments on the year's work, stated :—

“A wide variety of foodstuffs was received for examination from your inspectors, about a quarter of which consisted of milk samples. Three of the latter, or 8% of the total number, were deficient of fat and two of these were also below standard as regards solids not fat, but the freezing point test showed that the latter deficiencies were simply due to naturally poor milk. A great deal of the milk being sold generally is below standard in solids not fat, and the only remedy appears to be either more feeding stuffs or better quality rations for the cows.

“Of the samples submitted as a whole, 8 out of the total of 144 or 5½% were reported against. This figure is below the average for many midland districts at present.”

SAMPLES TAKEN UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS AND FOUND TO BE IRREGULAR.

No.	Nature of Sample	Formal or Informal	Nature of Adulteration	Action Taken
143	Pineapple Table Jelly ...	I.	Deficient of 9·5% sugar.	Formal samples submitted and reported GENUINE.
165	Milk	F.	Deficient of 20% fat and 3% solids not fat.	Further sample taken (See 189).
176	Cake Flour Mixture ...	I.	Sample did not contain any sugar.	Label did not state that it contained sugar. Code of Practice withdrawn.
180	Ice Cream	I.	Sample did not contain any sucrose.	Retailer changed supplier before formal sample could be obtained.
189	Milk	F.	Deficient approx. 6% fat.	Freezing point genuine. Appeal to cow obtained (See 196).
196	Milk	F.	Deficient of 6½% fat.	Freezing point genuine. Vendor advised. Further samples proved genuine.
226	Yoghourt	I.	Deficient in solids not fat.	Letter to Ministry of Food.
239	Pastry Mix	I.	Excessive free fatty acids.	No formal sample obtainable

SECTION F

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Although under the National Health Service Act the infectious disease hospitals in the country passed to the Regional Hospital Board, nevertheless, the control and prevention of infectious diseases still remain the responsibility of the Medical Officer of Health.

During the year everything has been done to investigate cases of infectious disease, to trace contacts and take steps to prevent further spread. By so doing it is hoped that the incidence of infectious diseases in the town has been kept as low as possible.

Deaths

During the year there were no deaths from Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Measles, Poliomyelitis, Typhoid and Paratyphoid and Dysentery.

Diphtheria

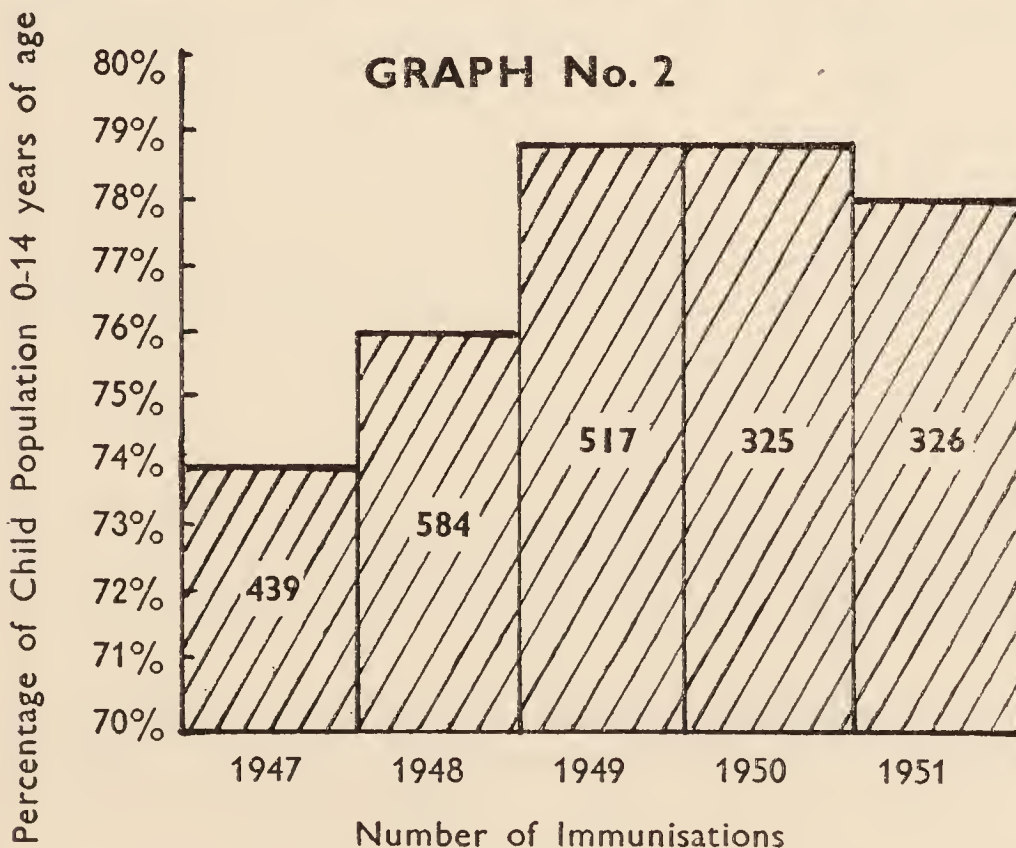
There were no cases in Sutton Coldfield during the year.

Diphtheria Immunisation

During 1951, 326 children completed primary courses of immunisation, 296 in the age group 0-4 years and 30 in the age group 5-14 years. The total number of immunisations in 1950 was 325.

I am pleased to report that up to the end of 1951 78% of the child population 0-14 years of age had been immunised.

Diphtheria Immunisation Complete Courses of Inoculation for the Past Five Years



Scarlet Fever

The number of cases notified during the year was much lower than 1950, a total of 58 cases being registered. This disease has been of a mild type of recent years and the admission of cases to hospital has not been encouraged.

Four cases were removed to hospital but only where housing conditions were unsuitable, or where necessary from a medical point of view.

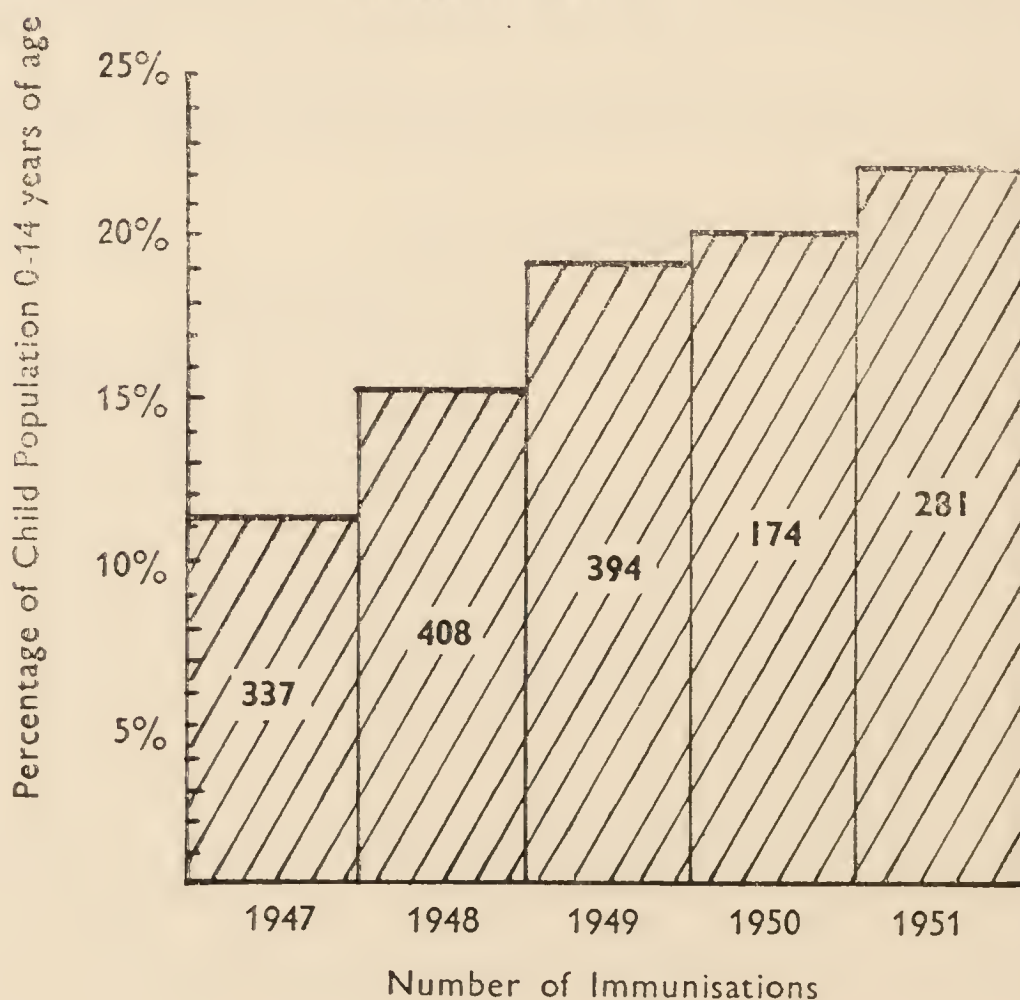
There were no deaths.

Whooping Cough

117 cases of whooping cough were notified during the year, a decrease of 84 cases as compared with 1950. Two cases were removed to hospital and one death occurred. During the year 281 children were immunised as against 174 in 1950. Since whooping cough immunisation commenced in September 1942, 2,294 children have been immunised, which is now 22% of the child population 0-14 years of age.

Whooping Cough Immunisation
Number and Percentage of Cases Inoculated
for the Past Five Years

GRAPH No. 3



Pneumonia

There was a slight decrease in the cases of pneumonia notified during the year, there being 36 as compared with 38 for 1950, and 16 deaths occurred. Of these 9 occurred in the age group 65 years and over.

Poliomyelitis

Last year a comprehensive report on the 40 cases of Poliomyelitis was given. This year I am pleased to report that there were only 4 cases during the year, 2 being paralytic and 2 non-paralytic.

The sharp decrease in the number of cases might be due to (1) the decrease in virulence of the virus ; (2) the development of a degree of immunity in the town ; (3) the occurrence of sub-clinical infections only, which did not become overt cases.

I hope that with care and attention to preventive measures the incidence of this disease can be kept as low as possible.

Dysentery

28 cases of Dysentery occurred during the year and 2 were removed to hospital. They were all of the Sonne type.

Typhoid and Paratyphoid

No cases occurred during 1951.

Measles

This disease tends to be biennial in rhythm, and this year the incidence has been high, there being 560 cases reported.

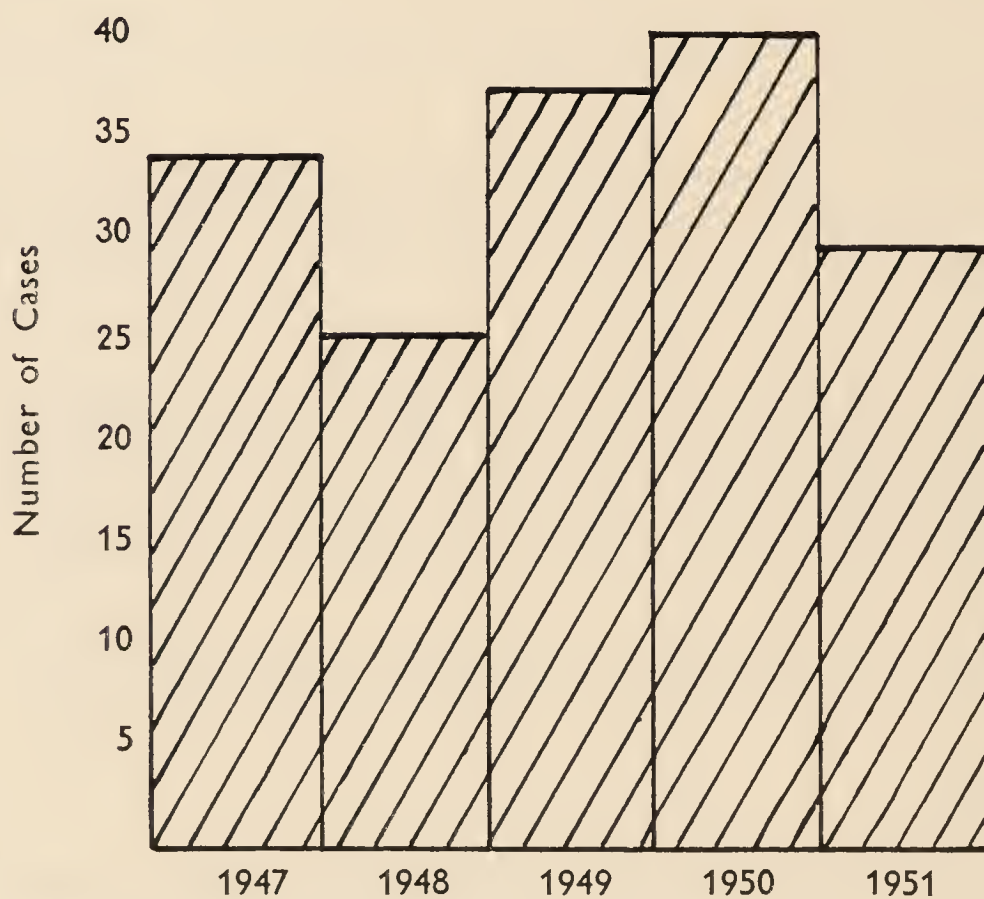
Tuberculosis

The number of new cases of respiratory tuberculosis notified was 24 as against 38 in 1950, and 5 cases of non-respiratory notified as against 3 in 1950, making a total of 29 cases as against 41.

During the year 5 deaths occurred from respiratory tuberculosis and 1 from non-respiratory tuberculosis as compared with 16 and 2 respectively for 1950.

Tuberculosis. Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary New Cases for the Past Five Years

GRAPH No. 4



Tuberculosis New Cases and Mortality During 1951

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory Males Females		Non-Respiratory Males Females		Respiratory Males Females		Non-Respiratory Males Females	
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5 ...	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
5—15 ...	2	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
15—25 ...	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	1
25—35 ...	2	4	1	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 ...	2	2	—	—	2	—	—	—
45—55 ...	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65 ...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	11	13	1	4	5	—	—	1

Up to 5th July, 1948, the Warwickshire and Coventry Joint Board were responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of Tuberculosis. From the 5th July the diagnosis and treatment became the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, Chest Physicians being appointed, but the Medical Officer of Health is still responsible for taking what steps he can to prevent and control the disease.

Tuberculosis has shown an increased incidence in the war and post-war years. Because it is a slow disease, people do not realise it is an infectious disease and until it is so treated it will continue to spread.

In addition, housing conditions and shortage, the consequent overcrowding, and lack of hospital beds play their part in the increase.

This year a slight reduction has occurred in the number of cases and I hope that this is the beginning of a steady fall. Improvement of housing conditions, better facilities for treatment, more hospital beds, B.C.G. vaccination and most important of all the education of the community in the infectious and preventable nature of the disease can play their part in reducing the incidence.

The Housing Committee has been most helpful in allocating houses to Tuberculosis cases and I am grateful to them.

Quarterly Notifications of Infectious Diseases

Disease	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Totals
Scarlet Fever	24	15	10	9	58
Whooping Cough	51	43	13	10	117
Poliomyelitis, Paralytic	—	—	—	2	2
„ Non-Paralytic	—	—	2	—	2
Measles	319	235	5	1	560
Pneumonia	19	4	5	8	36
Dysentery	11	14	3	—	28
Erysipelas	2	1	1	1	5
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	1	—	1
Food Poisoning	—	—	4	2	6
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	1	1	2
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	5	7	7	5	24
„ Non-Respiratory	2	1	2	—	5
Totals ...	433	320	54	39	846

Notifiable Diseases

Analysis of Deaths

DISEASES	CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR														DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING THE YEAR													
	All Ages	under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 over	Cases removed to Hospital	All Ages	under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 over	
Scarlet Fever ...	58	—	1	1	4	5	30	8	3	3	2	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough ...	117	3	10	16	15	30	40	1	1	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Poliomyelitis, Paralytic ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
“ Non-Paralytic ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Measles ...	560	7	46	60	80	100	222	27	5	8	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Pneumonia ...	36	2	—	—	—	—	6	1	1	4	4	12	6	3	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Dysentery ...	28	—	4	4	3	—	8	2	—	5	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Erysipelas ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Meningococcal Infection ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Food Poisoning ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	24	—	2	—	—	1	2	1	1	9	4	4	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
“ Non-Respiratory ...	5	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Totals ...	846	12	63	82	102	136	316	41	11	37	21	19	6	13	23	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	3	9	9	